

# Idaho Department of Correction

*Quarterly Briefing for Sheriffs*  
— September 2009

*Idaho's Premier Black Hat Agency*  
"Protecting Idaho through Safety, Accountability,  
Partnerships and Opportunities for offender change."



## State Bed Capacity Increases



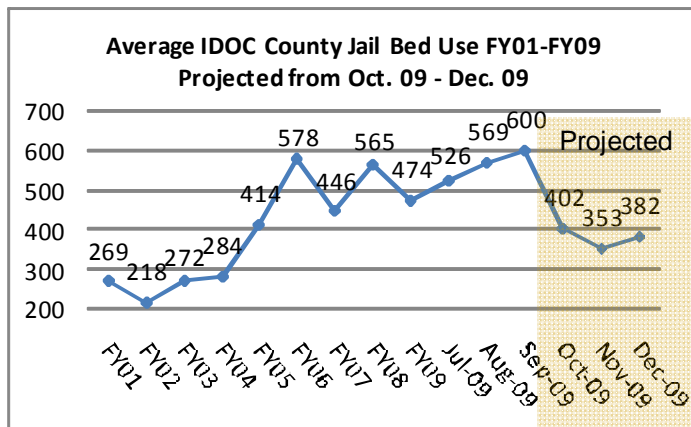
The new ICC close custody unit opened in July 2009.

State bed capacity increased to 7,071 this summer as two prison expansions opened and older units closed. The expansions, closures and return of inmates housed out of state were all major events that allowed IDOC to increase efficiency system-wide.

The closure of 150 IDOC beds eliminates the use of some older, less cost-effective beds. State capacity is now 7,071. On September 22nd, there were 7,339 inmates in state custody.

## Jail Bed Use Forecast

The capacity changes will impact county bed use. IDOC forecasts county jail bed use will drop to a low of 302 beds by October 31st and rise slowly from that base. To help counties with planning, the department will provide quarterly updates to forecast county jail beds needed.



The Jail Bed Use chart shows the average number of county jail beds used for IDOC inmates the past eight years. It projects the number of county beds needed will drop to 302 in October with a slow increase afterward. The large reduction will be in males.

While not a promise of bed use, the forecast is a step to provide more information on the anticipated need.

## Quick Updates

### Furloughs

Grappling with the economic downturn has created many challenges for the department. To manage a 5% reduction in personnel funding the department instituted a very aggressive furlough schedule. It includes:

- 4 days for prison security staff
- 10 days for all other staff

Department leadership selected the option that allows IDOC to best carry out its mission of public protection and to recover most quickly when the economy rebounds. The furloughs equal 90,000 hours of time.

### IDOC Furlough Impact

32 hours: prison security staff  
80 hours: all other staff  
**Total = 90,000 fewer hours**

### Flu

The Department is preparing for a pandemic flu outbreak, educating staff and inmates on preventing the spread and stocking up on masks. IDOC also has contingency plans to stop visiting and transports if flu is detected.

### Truck-Load of Property

When 120 inmates returned from out of state a semi-truck load of property came with them. Eighty staff sorted the boxes and seized tattoo motors, pornography and play stations.

The most **interesting item seized was a jeweled teeth grill**. An x-ray machine located the item wrapped in plastic and hidden in a shampoo bottle.

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## Medical Overview



Medical services account for a large portion of the cost-per-day in prisons nationwide. Between 15 and 20% of the daily cost of incarceration in Idaho comes from medical costs.

IDOC developed the "Guidelines for County Jails" to help manage this expense and obligation effectively for IDOC inmates housed in county jails.

The document categorizes what procedures and medical expenses are payable, and provides an authorization document to make the process and the payment easier. When in doubt if something is covered, please call and ask.

One person reconciles and pays all medical bills from counties. Processing bills involves reconciling all expenses. The first question: was the inmate in IDOC custody when the expense occurred?

Once a custody status is complete, the authorization confirmed, and expenses are verified, payment orders are signed and delivered to the fiscal department for payment. The process from receipt of the bill to payment is usually two weeks when the proper authorizations are in place.

**"We want counties to contact us if there are any questions or concerns,"** says Health Services Director Rona Siegert. **"If payment is denied, call me and we'll work through and resolve any outstanding concerns."**

The best guidance is this:

- Review the Health Services Guidelines for county jails.
- Fill out the authorization form prior to obtaining treatment whenever possible.
- Fax authorization forms to 327-7007
- For questions call: 658-2128 or 672-3434

The department doesn't want to deny counties reimbursement for any medically necessary items. This process is to control health care costs and manage state dollars effectively.

### Idaho Department of Correction Health Services Categories of Care

#### Category 1

Medically Necessary acute or emergent  
*Examples: heart attack, stroke, detached retina*

**Medical Authorization required within 72 hours**

#### Category 2

Medically Necessary non-emergent  
*Examples: Chronic conditions*

**Medical Authorization prior to treatment**

#### Category 3

Medically Acceptable not always necessary  
*Examples: Dental prosthetics, minor surgery*

**Medical Authorization prior to treatment**

#### Category 4

Limited Medical Value  
*Examples: Acne treatment, teeth cleaning*

**Medical Authorization required,  
usually not covered**

**Guidelines for County Jails and forms are  
available on-line at [idoc.idaho.gov](http://idoc.idaho.gov)  
County Health Services**